

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 KINSHA 01002 040851Z

13

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

IGA-02 ACDA-05 AID-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 L-03 H-02 /070 W

----- 041128

O R 040829Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6345

INFO AMEMBASSY KIGALI

AMEMBASSY BANGUI

AMCONSUL CAPETOWN

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 1002

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI PFOR CG

SUBJECT: REGIONAL ARMS RESTRAINT STUDY

REF: STATE 020621 (NOTAL)

1. MOBUTU IS A MILITARY MAN, AND HIS HISTORICAL, AS WELL AS ACTUAL, POWER BASE HAS BEEN THE ARMED FORCES. HE HAS THEREFORE LONG BEEN INTERESTED IN GARNERING THE WEAPONS HE FELT NECESSARY, NOT ONLY TO INSURE INTERNAL SECURITY, BUT ALSO TO LEND CREDENCE TO ZAIRE'S ROLE AS A "GREAT" AFRICAN POWER. THEN, THE ANGOLAN CIVIL WAR--AND ESPECIALLY THE MASSIVE INTRODUCTION OF SHOPHISTICATED SOVIET ARMS--CAME ALONG AND DRASTICALLY CHANGED MOBUTU'S HITHERTO TRADITIONAL VIEW OF HIS NEED FOR WEAPONS INTO AN URGENT DRIVE TO COUNTER WHAT HE NOW SEES AS AN IMPENDING THREAT FROM OUTSIDE TO ZAIRE'S SECURITY.

2. THE SPEED WITH WHICH SOVIET ARMS SUPPLY TURNED THE TIDE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 KINSHA 01002 040851Z

OF BATTLE AGAINST ZAIRE'S FRIENDS IN ANGOLA HAS CONVINCED

MOBUTU THAT HE MUST MODERNIZE AND AUGMENT HIS OWN ARMED FORCES. AS OUR SEPARATE REPORTING HAS DETAILED, MOBUTU WANTS A MODERN AIR FORCE, SOPHISTICATED AIR DEFENSE SYSTEMS, MODERN TANKS AND ARTILLERY CAPABLE OF COUNTERING THE SOVIET 122MM ROCKET. AND THE ONLY THING RESTRAINING HIM IS HIS SERIOUS BALANCE OF PAYMENTS PROBLEM. IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, IT IS DIFFICULT TO IMAGINE HOW THE USG COULD SUGGEST ANYTHING LESS THAN AN OVERALL SECURITY GUARANTEE AS A QUID FOR ADDITIONAL GOZ RESTRAINTS ON ARMS ACQUISITIONS. AND QUITE FRANKLY, WE DOUBT THAT MOBUTU WOULD BELIEVE IN THE EFFICACY OF SUCH A GUARANTEE, WERE IS PROFFERED.

3. LASTLY, THE KIND OF MUTAL AGREEMENT AMONG AFRICAN COUNTRIES MENTIONED IN THE REFTEL WOULD MEAN FROM ZAIRE'S OPTIC THAT BRAZZAVILLE AND LUANDA WOULD HAVE GET RID OF THEIR HUGE SUPPLIES OF SOVIET ARMS--NOT TO SPEAK OF THE CUBAN TROOPS. THIS IS HARDLY LIKELY IN ANY REALISTIC SCENARIO. IN SUM, THE ANGOLAN AFFAIR HAS RENDERED THE SUBJECT OF ARMS RESTRAINT QUITE HYPOTHETICAL FROM ZAIRE'S POINT OF VIEW.
CUTLER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARMS, CONVENTIONAL WARFARE, STUDIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976KINSHA01002
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760041-1027
From: KINSHASA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760284/aaaacvoc.tel
Line Count: 82
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 20621
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 MAR 2004 by greeneet>; APPROVED <29 JUL 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REGIONAL ARMS RESTRAINT STUDY
TAGS: MILI, PFOR, CG
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006